

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 02698 041820Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T NATO 02698

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO  
SUBJECT: DUAL-HATTING AND RELOCATION OF CINCUSNAVEUR AT  
AFSOUTH

REF: (A) STATE 091080 DTG 221829Z APR 77 (NOTAL), (B)  
ROME 6882 DTG 281617Z APR 77 (NOTAL), (C) LONDON 07162  
DTG 021722Z MAY 77 (NOTAL)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02698 041820Z

SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED REF A WE PROVIDE BELOW COMMENTS ON  
THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS AS SEEN FROM HERE OF THE PRO-  
POSED COLLOCATION OF CINCUSNAVEUR AT AFSOUTH. WE BELIEVE  
ITALY'S RELATIVE POLITICAL INSTABILITY WILL CONCERN THE  
ALLIES AS THEY CONSIDER RELOCATION FROM LONDON. A  
SEPARATE CONCERN FOR SEVERAL ALLIES ALSO WILL BE THE  
APPEARANCE OF A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AWAY FROM THE NORTHERN

REGION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE US MISSION IS NOT IN A GOOD POSITION TO JUDGE THE MILITARY MERITS OF THE PROPOSED RELOCATION. WITH REGARD TO THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE COMMENTS PROVIDED BY AMEMBASSIES LONDON AND ROME IN REFS B AND C.

2. THE FIRST, AND PREDOMINANT CONCERN HERE, THOUGH IT WILL NOT BE VOICED IN NATO BODIES, WILL BE THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL INSTABILITY OF THE NAPLES AREA AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN THE UK. MOREOVER, NAVEUR ENJOYS FULL ACCEPTANCE IN LONDON, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE IN ITALY. WE BELIEVE THUS THAT MOST ALLIES WOULD REGARD A MOVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS UNTIMELY AND UNWISE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE UNSETTLED SITUATION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT GREECE, IN ITS JANUARY 27 RESPONSE TO NATO ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS, HAS IDENTIFIED THE SOUTHERN REGION COMMAND STRUCTURE AS ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO GREECE'S REJOINING THE NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE PROCEED.

3. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THE PROBABLE RETENTION OF THE US COMEASTLANT FUNCTION IN LONDON SHOULD HELP US TO ALLAY MUCH OF THE APPREHENSION WHICH MIGHT BE GENERATED AT NATO HEADQUARTERS BY THE PROPOSED MOVE, THE ALLIES IN THE NORTHERN REGION, PARTICULARLY NORWAY, ALSO MAY VIEW THIS MOVE AS A SHIFT OF ATTENTION TOWARD THE SOUTHERN REGION  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 02698 041820Z

AT THEIR EXPENSE.

4. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE PLACING CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING THE RAPID REINFORCEMENT CONCEPT AND ENHANCING CANADIAN, UK AND US ABILITY TO BRING TROOPS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO EUROPE BEFORE HOSTILITIES BEGIN, THE SHIFT OF NAVEUR'S COMMAND TO THE MEDITERRANEAN MAY GIVE AN UNINTENDED SIGNAL THAT WE CONSIDER THE NORTHERN LINES OF COMMUNICATION LESS IMPORTANT.

5. FINALLY, DESPITE ANY MILITARY JUSTIFICATIONS THAT WE GIVE, THE ALLIES MAY VIEW THIS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL AS AN UNWARRANTED DISRUPTION OF A LONG-ESTABLISHED COMMAND STRUCTURE WHICH PROVIDES EXCELLENT ACCESS AND COMMUNICATIONS. THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION WHICH MIGHT ENCUMBER OUR ABILITY TO REINFORCE EUROPE.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, GIVEN THE CONCERNS OF SOUTHERN

REGION COUNTRIES ABOUT THE ATTENTION ACCORDED THEIR REQUIREMENTS BY NATO, THEY MAY BE INCLINED TO SEE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGE IN THE MOVE.

7. THUS, WHILE THE ALLIES MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO ACCEPT THE RELOCATION AND DUAL-HATTING, WE BELIEVE THERE WILL BE RELUCTANCE AT LEAST ON THE PART OF SEVERAL ALLIES. IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO PROCEED WE WILL NEED TO MARSHALL OUR ARGUMENTS WITH CARE IN ORDER TO SECURE FULL ALLIED SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MOVE.BENNETT

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